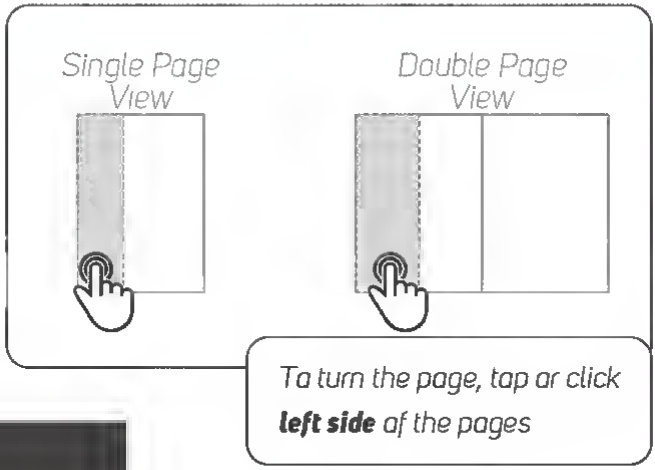
A **COMIC ZENON** Production

Arte

by KEI OHKUBO

This manga is read in
RIGHT to LEFT
page order

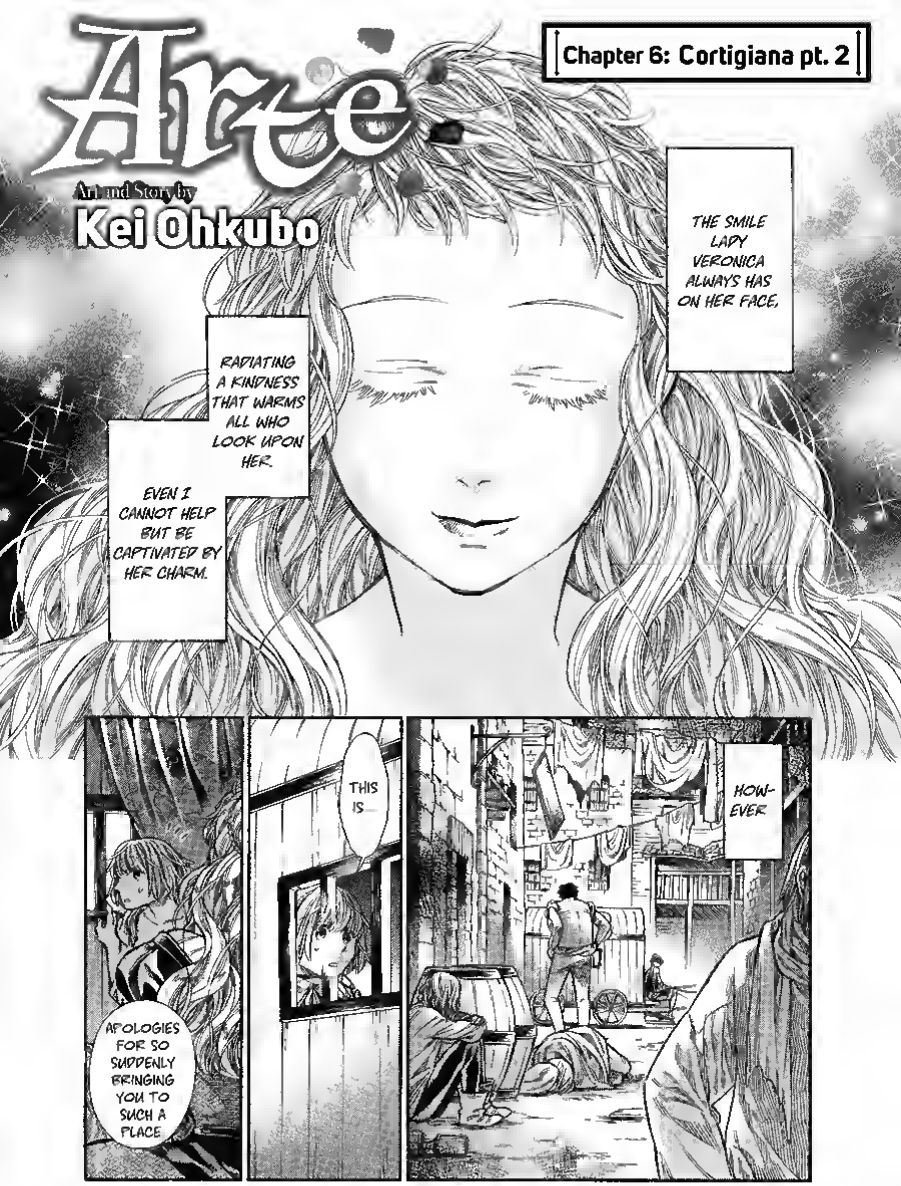


PLEASE TAP
LEFT
TO BEGIN!

Arte

Art and Story by
Kei Ohkubo

Chapter 6: Cortigiana pt. 2

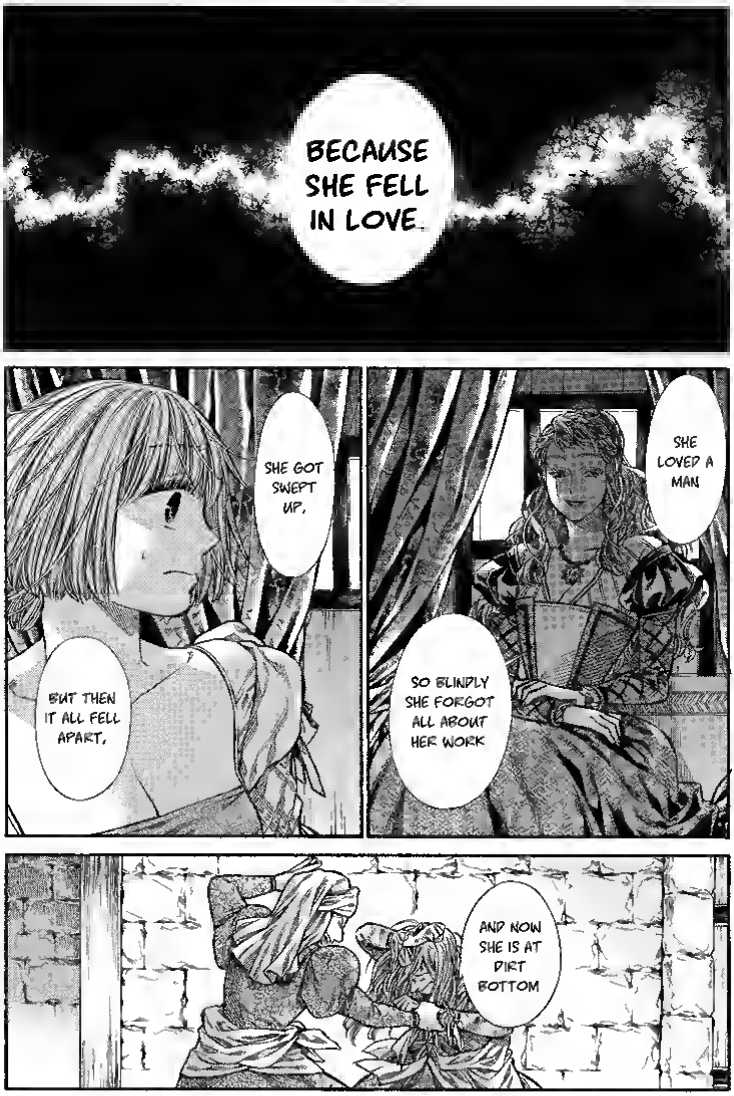

THE SMILE LADY VERONICA ALWAYS HAS ON HER FACE,
RADIATING A KINDNESS THAT WARMS ALL WHO LOOK UPON HER.
EVEN I CANNOT HELP BUT BE CAPTIVATED BY HER CHARM.
APOLOGIES FOR SO SUDDENLY BRINGING YOU TO SUCH A PLACE
THIS IS...
HOW-EVER

FROM A MAGNIFICENT NEIGHBOURHOOD, INTO A SQUALID SLUM...

THERE IS...
SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU HERE
WHAT IS VERONICA TRYING TO TELL HER?
!
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
SHOW ME SOME-THING?
AN OLD WOMAN?
SLAM
ドンドン

SHE LOOKS AGED, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER...
AND HER SKIN IS WITHERED...
HER TEETH ARE ROTTEN.
HER SCANT HAIR IS FALLING OUT.
NO...
WAIT...
ONCE UPON A TIME, SHE WAS ALSO...
A HIGH-CLASS CORTIGIANA JUST LIKE ME.
SHE'S STILL...
YOUNG...?
YEARS AGO
YES, JUST LIKE ME.
LIKE YOU?
A HIGH-CLASS CORTIGIANA?

SHE USED TO BE FABULOUSLY GORGEOUS
SHE HAD GLOSSY, PERFECTLY DONE UP HAIR AND ALABASTER SKIN
AND ALWAYS DRESSED IN THE MOST LAVISH, FASHIONABLE ATTIRE
WHEN SHE WALKED DOWN THE STREET, SHE HAD DOZENS OF MEN TRAILING AFTER HER
BUT NOW,
SHE BARELY MAKES A LIVING FROM CUSTOMERS BROUGHT BY HER PEDDLER
OH.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE CUSTOMER IS GETTING AWAY
POOR WOMAN
HOW COULD A COURTESAN END UP HERE?


BECAUSE SHE FELL IN LOVE.
SHE GOT SWEPT UP,
BUT THEN IT ALL FELL APART,
SHE LOVED A MAN
SO BLINDLY SHE FORGOT ALL ABOUT HER WORK
AND NOW SHE IS AT DIRT BOTTOM

GLUG
GLUG
BAM
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
HUH?
CHOW DOWN TO KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP!
IT'S MEAT DAY!
BA-
BAM
YES!

I UM
DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE
WHAT'S UP?
EAT UP BEFORE IT GETS COLD
YIKES!
SO TODAY,
I'LL MAKE DO WITH THE SOUP, AND GO ON UPSTAIRS
I DON'T FEEL SICK OR ANYTHING,
IT'S JUST I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING TODAY
A TERRIBLE AURA OF ANGER!
ずおぉ～
INDIGNATION
HE'S GIVING OFF
RADIATION
THAT'S NOT IT,
EH?
OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT!
CAN'T LET GOOD FOOD GO TO WASTE, CAN WE?
SOR-RY!

EATING AND SLEEPING WELL ARE PART OF WORK TOO
THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW TO THINK ABOUT
IF YOU'RE NOT SICK, STUFF IT DOWN IF YOU HAVE TO
WORK
MY DREAM
WOULD BE
ME?
ARTE, WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?

TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN,
WITHOUT HAVING TO RELY ON ANYONE ELSE
IS THAT SO?
WELL,
IF YOU WANT YOUR DREAM TO COME TRUE...
YOU CANNOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THINGS LIKE BEING A WOMAN OR FALLING IN LOVE.
THE WORLD IS CRUEL TOWARDS WOMEN...
FROM UTTER WOE
WE'RE ALL ONE STEP

YOU CANNOT HAVE TIME FOR
LOVE IS A DISTRAC-TION
RIP
SCARF
I MUSTN'T THINK SUCH USELESS THOUGHTS!
I MUST FOCUS ON MY WORK!
GNAW
SHE'S RIGHT
CHOMP

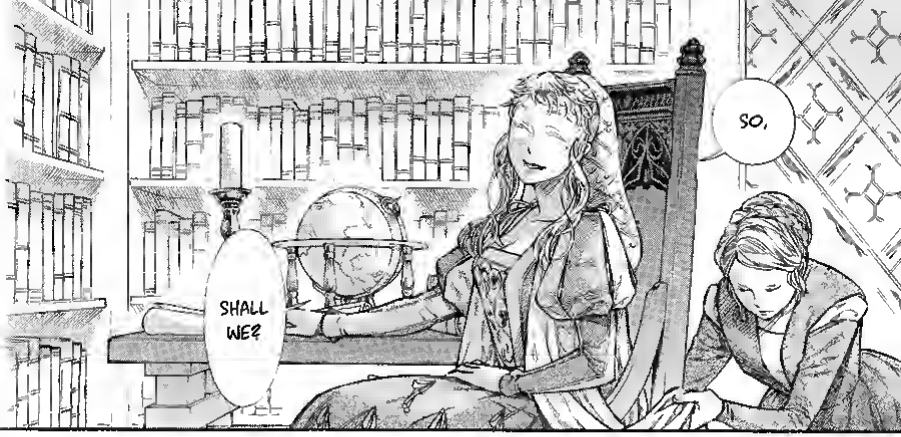
IT HAS TO BE WORK, AND ONLY WORK!
OK!
SLAP
SLAP
I'LL BE BACK LATER!
I MUST TRY HARDER!

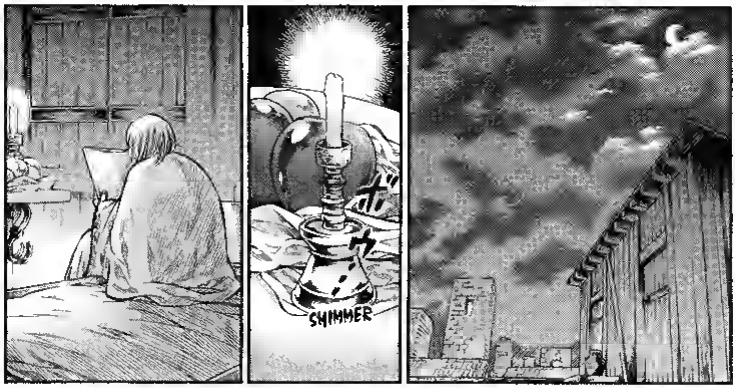
SLAM
PLEASE WAIT HERE UNTIL LADY VERONICA IS READY.
TH-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
OH!
I DIDN'T SEE HIM.
HE START-LED ME
!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
TAP
TAP
TAP
FIDGET
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
CLICK
JOLT
SIGNORINA ARTE
LADY VERONICA IS READY TO RECEIVE YOU
UM?
YOU MEAN ME?
glance
AND HIM?

UM ARE YOU SURE?
?
THERE WAS SOMEONE WAITING BEFORE ME OUT THERE
OH HIM
GOOD AFTER-NOON, AI-TE.
SHALL WE BEGIN?
?
ON PUR-POSE?
I'M MAKING HIM WAIT ON PURPOSE
HE'S FINE
A REGULAR TRICK OF MINE
THAT'S RIGHT

TO MAKE THEM EVER MORE IMPATIENT,
THE MORE THEY WAIT, THE MORE THEY CRAVE...
...AFTER A FEW HOURS OF WAITING, WHEN THEY FINALLY SEE ME,
THEY WILL BE ALL THE MORE INFATUATED.
THE TRICKS
OF THE LOVE TRADE?
SUCH ARE THE TRICKS OF THE LOVE TRADE, I SUP-POSE

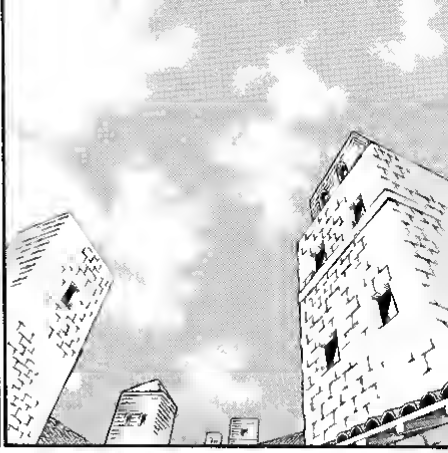

SO,
SHALL WE?


SHIMMER

LIKING SOMEONE AFTER ALL THAT
I JUST DON'T GET IT...
TO MAKE THEM EVER MORE IMPATIENT,
ALL THE MORE INFATUATED
Scratch
Scratch
Scratch

SHE SAID I WAS IN LOVE WITH MASTER LEO, BUT
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT LOVE IS...
LOVE IS WHEN
YOU HAVE PAINS IN YOUR CHEST,
AND YOUR FACE GETS ALL FLUSHED?
...
I WONDER IF HE
WAS SUFFER-ING TOO
TO CARRY SUCH PAIN IN YOUR HEART
WAITING AROUND FOR SO LONG...
IS ABSO-LUTE
TORTURE
NO, NO, NO!
MUST FOCUS ON WORK!
I MUSTN'T THINK SUCH USELESS THOUGHTS!
RRRR
IT

PLEASE WAIT
YOU WILL BE CALLED WHEN SHE IS READY



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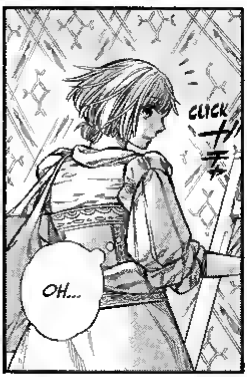
HIM AGAIN


CLICK
OH...

FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS!
NO, NO! MUST NOT GET DISTRACTED!
HUMF'H!

BUT...
I JUST CAN'T

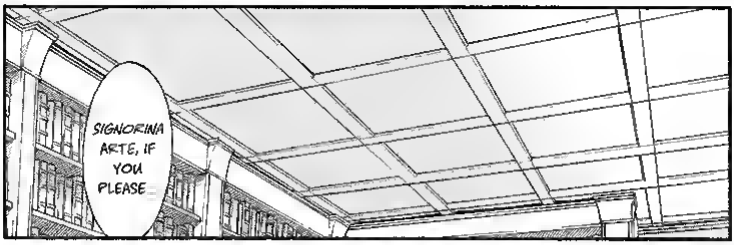
Glance

I'M HERE TO PAINT LADY VERONICA'S PORTRAIT
UM
YOU WERE HERE THE OTHER DAY
HELP MYSELF
PARDON ME
YOU MUST TELL ME WHO IT'S FOR!
IS IT FOR ME!?
OR SOME OTHER MAN!?
YOU'RE DOING VERONICA'S POR-TRAIT!?
SEIZE
TELL ME! HOW DOES SHE FEEL ABOUT ME!?
COULD YOU ...
UHH...
DID SHE MENTION ME LAST TIME!?

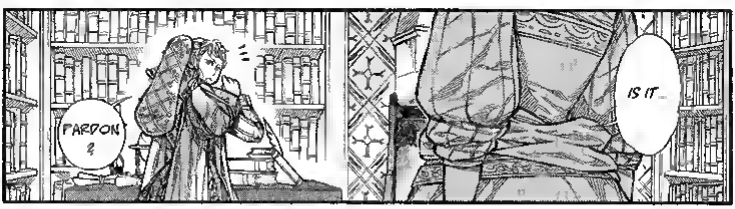
OH!
PLEASE LET GO!
COULD YOU...
OH!
SCARY...
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, WOULD YOU?
I'M SORRY...
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!
BEING OUT HERE...

LADY VERONICA
AND A MAN'S VOICE?
HA HA HA
HEE HEE HEE
AND EVERY TIME I HEAR IT,
LAUGHTER FLOATS OUT THROUGH HER WINDOW
IT DRIVES ME CRAZY!
THE JEALOUSY
WHAT AM I DOING?
BUT
THIS PERSON
I ALSO KNOW THAT PAIN IN YOUR CHEST

IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS
SUFFERING FAR MORE THAN ME


SIGNORINA ARTE, IF YOU PLEASE

WELCOME ARTE
SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO GET READY


PARDON ?
IS IT

IS IT RIGHT TO MAKE PEOPLE SUFFER
AS PART OF YOUR JOB?
WHY THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
ARTE, DEAR?
THAT MAN,
YOU MADE HIM WAIT ALL DAY AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
OH, THANK HEAVENS.
JUST THAT?

DON'T BOTHER YOURSELF WITH THAT
THAT'S ALL PART OF THE JOB
WHO WOULD DO SUCH CRUEL THINGS!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THE KIND OF PERSON
I SAID...
WHAT?
!
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T KNOW AFTER ALL

DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT TIME BEFORE?
YOU SHOULDN'T TURN THOSE SPARKLY EYES ON A LADY IN MY LINE OF WORK
A-
-maz.ing
I WAS...
COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO WHO LADY VERONICA WAS
THAT TIME...
YEAH
BUT
REGARD-LESS,

I DON'T THINK
IT'S A NICE THING TO DO AT ALL!
OH?
SLAM
EXCUSE ME!
DOESN'T HATE ME...
SHE
I HOPE
CREAK
OH MY...

CLACK
CLACK
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
HUMPH
HEAVE
HEAVE
BANG!!
!
CREAK

MASTER LEO
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU'RE BACK EARLY
WHAT'S UP?
OH, SORRY!
WORK FINISHED EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT!
あはは！
Ahaha
Doink
ぱっ
WELL THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING EARLY...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
PAT ポ
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Ha ha ha
はははは
!

CLICK
AH!
LET GO OF ME!
WRENCH
GASP
WHAT
WAS THAT?
SORRY!
BOLT
S-

I SAID I WOULD FOCUS.
I SAID WORK AND ONLY WORK...
OH...
IT'S ALL RUINED!
LADY VERONICA IS AN IMPORTANT PATRON...
I BEHAVED SO TERRIBLY...
BUT TODAY,
I WAS TAKEN IN BY THAT KIND SMILE OF HERS THE WHOLE TIME...
LADY VERON-ICA.
HOW SCARY THAT SMILE COULD BE...
WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW

THOUGHTS RUNNING IN CIRCLES...

♦ Ch. 6 End ♦

NOW HOW WILL I PAY THIS MONTH'S RENT...
THAT THAT HE WOULD LEAVE ME AND JUST DISAPPEAR
LADY NANNA
EVERYTHING OF VALUE HAS BEEN TAKEN
SHE'S JUST A WRETCHED WHORE
DO WITH HER AS YOU WANT
CLASP
TAKE HER AWAY
BUT YOU CAN'T!
YOU INSULT ME BY NOT SEEING ME FOR A FULL YEAR, THEN YOU COME HERE, BEGGING FOR MONEY?
SO WHAT?
CREAK
TODAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
GET IN HERE!
CREAK
NAN-NA! I'VE BROUGHT YOU A CUSTOM-ER!
UGH

Arte makes up her mind...!!